# CAUSE AND EFFECT SUTRA

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## Cause and Effect Sutra

A good man thrives not because he is overshadowed by the evil in his past life. When such evil terminates, the good man naturally deserves his present credits.

An evil man perishes not because the virtues of his past life still crown him. When such virtues expire, the evil man has no way to escape punishment.

An anonymous Buddhist disciple of An-chi donated a sum of money for printing three-thousand copies of the Cause And Effect Sutra. He aims to implant in every human's heart the understanding of cause and effect in life. His far — sightedness and wisdom which has induced such act calls for respect from many, for in the world today fightings and bloodshed occur in every nook and corner. Competitions can be seen in every form. With tyrant force or by evil means,

each one strives to excel the other in fame and in wealth. The unhealthy phenomenon owes its cause in no other than the overlooking of the importance of the Cause and Effect Sutra by many. Most people place emphasis on the practical present but ignore the outcome of their deeds in the future.

Those who are concerned with the welfare of society advocate strict law' for preventing crimes and keeping orders. Yet history tells us that strict law is not the sole answer. Like some drugs that cure only local injury but not its root, strict law does not annihilate the cause of crimes and the origin of evils.

The Cause and Effect Sutra teaches tactfulness, self-discipline, self-animation and self-love. As soon as the many why's are clarified and the principle familiarly known, it will not be difficult to see in a community that the old will have a home for their old age, the young will be educated, the

strong will become constructive and useful and the widows and the widowers, the sick and the invalids, will have no worry about their daily living.

The Cause and Effect Sutra is an iron rule, sure and definite. No one who kills could escape being killed in return. Jesus Christ has also emphasized this point. However, it is very unfortunate that up till the present, very few people have really discovered its real significance. No doubt, the underestimation of its value is a great loss to society, to the nation, and even to the whole of mankind.

The fact that the donor of this booklet has declined to have his name published signified his sincerity in the act of giving. He deserves to be considered a keen Buddhist disciple and the reward he will enjoy from heaven will be innumerable.

The vivid sketches in this booklet were done by Brother-Niew (literally, Cow-brother). Soon after the publi-

cation of this booklet many Buddhist followers wrote to us and requested for over two thousand copies of it. So great had been the demand of it that Mu. Young, Mr. Cheng, Mr. Yu, and others had copies reprinted and distributed. It is encouraging to know that many wise people have found the booklet worth keeping.

**REV. MING PEN,**
Lin-Chi Temple,
Taipei.
June 29, 1966.

## Preface to the Third Publication of the Cause and Effect Sutra.

March 1967

In the discussions with disciples and non-disciples I have held in the past, as well as after the distribution of the Cause and Effect Sutra, I have found that the theory of Cause and Effect Sutra has easily been accepted. Besides having sent copies to the people who called at Green Lake Buddhist Temple and those corresponded with me, I sent one copy to a prisoner in Kwi-shan. This prisoner was a murderer and had been sentenced to nine years in prison. In the long years in jail, this prisoner became more impatient and depressed day after day.

More than once, he tried to commit suicide, for he was sick of watching the ceiling of the cell everyday. After I sent him the Cause and Effect Sutra, he read it repeatedly and gradually calmed himself down. Not only had he confessed sincerely, but he had

also felt himself to be a new person. Instead of spending his time watching the ceiling of the cell idly, he volunteered to work. Because of his good behaviour, he was allowed to be bailed out from the prison before his time was up.

From the above incident, I see the great influence of the Cause and Effect Sutra on man, even a beast-like man, and I feel it is my privilege to distribute more copies of the Cause and Effect Sutra in the present chaotic world. I sincerely hope that there will be more disciples who will donate their money for the printing of it.

Sakyamuni has said that the act of donating money for the printing of the Cause and Effect Sutra and distributing it is well rewarded.

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Green Lake Kid Ground
Hsin-tien ,Taipei Hsien
Taiwan, Republic of China

## TRANSLATION

### True Causes and Effects to Conjuncted Lives

At the Lin-shan (a place in India) Meeting, where 1,250 disciples participated, Orneh, one of the disciples, after making his respectful bows to Buddha Sakyamuni, humbly asked a question.

He asked, "My kindest Buddha, please explain to us in detail what were the arrangements made to the effects to all human beings in this third Buddha age, who after their birth have behaved improperly and unkindly, disrespected Buddha, been infilial to their own parents, been careless to what good they have been taught, have violated family relationships and indulged in killing and fighting, when this world is full of disabled and poor people, and there is also an unfair distribution of wealth and poverty?"

Buddha Sakyamuni told Orneh and the rest of the disciples to listen carefully and said, "Well, well, I shall explain things with the truth: in the present world, you may see that some are suffering poverty but some are enjoying wealth. All these have been soundly ordained with causes depending on what they did in their previous lives. Firstly, parents must be loved. Secondly, Buddha must be respected. Thirdly, there must not be killing or fighting and all living things should be well taken care of. Fourthly, eat only vegetables and give alms for public welfare. These are the good causes that, when carried out, will bring a man wealth and happiness."

He continued to reveal the truth of causes and effects as follows: "Wealth in this life is conditioned by the things one did in the previous life. It is the Cause. If one fulfilled the Cause faithfully, one's life would be ensured with wealth, peace, safety and happiness."

The truth of Cause and Effect

Sutra to three-conjuncted lives is not a simple matter," he said, "You must remember well what I shall presently say:

"How is a man able to be a powerful official now? — because he had richly clothed the statue of Buddha in his previous life. The decorating of the statue of Buddha in gold in his previous life corresponds to the clothing of himself with beautiful and plentiful amount of clothings in this life. (Fig. 1) And with constant praying in decent clothes, the accomplishment of a good cause in his previous life has brought him the glorious effect of today. To have contributed money for building up a good temple to shelter Buddha from rain and sunshine is the same as having built up for oneself a comfortable house with garden. So, do not imagine it is easy to attain a powerful official position, for no act of good deed in a man's previous life will bring him no reward in this life.

Why is a man able to own expen-

sive cars and servicable horses? — He must have voluntarily repaired broken bridges and paved roads for the benefit of others in his previous life. (Fig. 2)

Why is a man able to possess closet full of clothes in great variety? — He must have donated clothes to a priest who could not afford to buy warm clothings in the severe cold. (Fig. 3)

How is a certain man never short of food or clothing? — He must have frequently dispersed food to the poor who were hungry and tea to the needy who were thirsty in his previous life. (Fig. 4) If a man is starving and having nothing to keep him warm, then he must have been too stingy to give even half a cent for charity in his previous life.

Why is a man so fortunate to be able to live in a big house? He must have contributed much rice as food to the temples in his previous life. (Fig. 5)

How has a man become as prosperous as a millionaire? — He must have donated much money for the building of temples, shelter and other public facilities. (Fig. 6)

What has made a man's appearance noble and dignified? — The man must have presented nice flowers and fresh blossoms constantly to Buddha in his previous life. (Fig. 7)

What made a man intelligent and wise? — He must have been a sober vegetarian and a devout Buddhist in his previous life. (Fig. 8)

Why does a man have a beautiful and tender wife and attractive harems? — He visited the temple diligently and had won many friends in the temple in his previous life.

What has made a man and his wife remain faithful to each other and live a happy life? — They both have often presented silk scrolls and tapestries to Buddha in their previous lives.

(Fig. 9)

Why does a man's parents enjoy long lives? — He respected and was kind and considerate to the lonely people in his previous life. (Fig. 10) A boy has become an orphan at an early age because he had been a bird-shooter in his previous life.

What gives a man many children and grandchildren so that he is able to enjoy a happy family life? — He was kind enough to have set many birds free from their cages in his previous life. (Fig. 11)

Why do a man's sons die young? — His previous life had been a woman who committed suicide by drowning herself.

Why can't a certain man's wife bear any child? — He had had a bad habit of destroying flowers in his previous life.

What has enabled a man to enjoy

long life and good health? — He was fond of saving and setting free trapped or caged living things or insects in misery. (Fig. 12) A man has a short life because he had destroyed too many lives in his previous birth.

Why does a man remain single and is lonesome? — He had raped other man's wife in his previous life.

Why does a woman become a widow at a young age? — She ill-treated her husband in her previous life. (Fig. 13)

Why has a man become a slave in this life? — He was ungrateful and disloyal in his previous life. (Fig. 14)

Why does a lady have clear bright eyes and is wisely and farsighted? . . . She had contributed much oil for lighting the lamp on the altar. (Fig. 15).

What is the cause for blindness in this life? — The blind man had pur-

posely misled others who asked him for directions in his previous life.

Why does a man have harelips? — He had blown off the light of the altar with conceit.

Why is a man born dumb and deaf? — He despised and scolded his parents in his previous life. (Fig. 16)

Why does a man have hunchback? — He jested at others who worshipped and bowed to Buddha in his previous life. (Fig. 17)

Why does a man have crooked arms? — He had been using his arms for crimes in his previous life.

Why does a man have crooked legs and walk like a cripple? — He had been a highway man and blocked people's way in quiet corners.

What were the previous lives of cows and horses? — They were people who never paid their debts. (Fig. 18)

What were the previous lives of pigs and dogs? — They were liers who cheated and harmed others.

Why is a man bed-ridden in this life? — He used to worship Buddha with liqour and meat.

Why is a man enjoying wonderful health in this life? — He donated or bought medicines for those who could not afford to buy them. (Fig. 19)

Why is a man a jailbird in this life? — He was cruel, fierce and stubborn and selfish in his previous life.

Why does a man have to die from starvation? — He frequently blocked up the lairs of rats and snakes.

What is the reason for a man who is poisoned to death? — He was used to disperse poison into rivers to catch fish.

Why does a man have to stand alone, forlorn and miserable with no

one to depend on in time of need? — He used to be a tyrant usurper and a cunning calculator, taking away people's properties by force in his previous life. (Fig. 20)

Why is a man short and small? — He read the Sutra on the floor in his previous life.

Why does a man vomit blood? — He ate meat and read the Sutra at the same time in his previous life.

Why is a man deaf? — He read the Sutra impatiently and without understanding.

Why does a man suffer boils and skin-diseases? — He worshipped Buddha with fish and meat.

Why does a man's body naturally have stinky bad odour? — He did not make incense and joss sticks with good material and sold the bad ones with high price in his previous life.

Why has a man hung himself dead? — He used to fell trees with ropes in the forest and neglected to bring it home. Other people thought it was a snake and died out of shocking fear.

What is the cause of the existence of widows and widowers? — These people had been insanely jealous in their previous lives.

What is the cause for death through thunderstroke and fire? — The victims sold their commodities by underweighed quantities and bought their goods with overweighed balance. They had not been honest in trades in their previous lives.

What type of people are likely to be attacked by tigers and snakes and meet death as a result? — Those who had been their enemies in their previous lives."

"However," Buddha continued, "you will deserve an effect for what-

ever cause you have committed. And you should not complain if you have to suffer in jail. Do not think that no one can see the causes and effects in life. They will all be exemplified either immediately in your own present life or later in the lives of your younger generations. Should you doubt the truth and have little faith in remaining a sober vegetarian or in the giving of charities, the sight of the happy and prosperous people around you can well be the witness. The good cause you have accomplished in your previous life will be the foundation of your present good fortune. The good seeds you have sown in this life will give you good fruits in your next life.

Any one who insults the Cause and Effect Sutra now will become an animal in the next life. Any one who acts according to the Cause and Effect Sutra will find witness in Buddha. Any one who transcribes the Cause and Effect Sutra will be able to produce scholars from generations to generations and have family reputa-

tion. Any one who carries the Cause and Effect Sutra about him will be free from disaster and calamity. Any one who spreads the truth of the Cause and Effect Sutra will be wise and intelligent in many lives. Any one who reads the Cause and Effect Sutra will be well respected and loved by many in the next life. Any one who has the Cause and Effect Sutra printed and distributed will have honourable or royal status in the next life.

If you doubt the true reaction-chain of the Cause and Effect Sutra, ponder upon how Mu-Lien could save her mother from suffering and punishment.*** Any one who believes the Cause and Effect Sutra deeply is to be born blessed in the Happy kingdom in the west.

There is no end in trying to explain the Cause and Effect Sutra. But, in brief, Heaven will not overlook the slightest good cause any one has accomplished. In the temple of Buddha you will be able to begin planting good seeds. By giving one cent for charity

you will be rewarded by ten thousand cents. Whatever donation you have made will be recorded in heaven's treasury and you will enjoy good fortune one generation after another.

To understand your previous life, look at what you have in your present life. To have a preview of your next life, examine your daily act in this life."

**Footnote**

* Emperor Wu was the most successful king in the history of China, who was loved and respected by all people under his rule. In the previous life of Emperor Wu, he was the son of a poor farmer. In his youth, he was unable to attend school for lack of money and he looked after water-buffalo. When he was watching the buffalo at the mountain side, he noticed a roofless, shabbly temple on the foot of the mountain. In his pure young heart, he visualized Buddha being soaked in the rain and scorched by the hot sun. He soon determined that he should do something about it.

So patiently and with endless effort, he rebuilt the temple all by himself.

** Lady Shin was one of the concubines of an emperor, who always insulted the religious advisor to the emperor and rejected his advice. She was made into a snake in her following life.

*** Mu-Lien was a pretty young girl who loved her mother very deeply. After her mother's death she saw in her dream that her mother was looked up in inferno and was suffering all types of punishment. She went to Buddha and swore that she was willing to do anything in exchange for the freedom for her mother. To test her determination, Buddha tried her by putting her in danger of many natures and astonished her in countless ways. She finally won Buddha's sympathy, and it resulted that not only her mother was saved but also she herself had become an angel and was allowed to enter the kingdom of Heaven.

# 百忍成金

甚麼事情看不通 做成樣子氣冲冲
無端白事心火動 是否想做化骨龍
有事不妨慢慢講 何須怒氣在心中
事情總會有解決 不要弄到面紅紅
若果嬲壞條中氣 賺得走去買鹿茸
君子不吃眼前虧 要把身體來保重
記住百忍便成金 做人無須太衝動
凡事應以和爲貴 感情大可以交通
四海之內皆兄弟 無謂冰炭不相容
愛字能解萬種仇 莫把仇根來深種
大事若能化小事 小事很快便無踪
只要一人讓一步 大家心裏樂融融
表現自己的大量 才是眞正有威風
能有修養謂之勇 處世溫柔最有用
顧全大家的體面 日後定有好相逢
平心靜氣想一想 安靜令人百事通
水落自然見石出 閒氣爭來過眼空
試問誰人沒有錯 可容人處且相容
諒解對方的過失 贏得對方深感動
山水也有相逢日 人生何處不相逢

# 醒世文

父母不親誰是親 不重父母重何人 你若重他十六兩 後代兒孫還一斤

千兩黃金萬兩銀 有錢難買父娘身 在堂父母百年稀 生時不孝死徒悲

在生之時不敬重 死後空勞拜孤墳 在家不可言相激 一旦拋離更不回

要見面時難得見 要他歸時難得歸 若要父母重見面 除非三魂夢裏隨

勸君趁早行孝道 定保兒孫世代芳 心不明來點甚燈 意不公平誦甚經

大斗小秤吃甚素 不孝父母齋甚僧 眞藥難醫寃孽病 橫財不富命窮人

利己害人促壽算 積善修行裕子孫 人惡人怕天不怕 人善人欺天不欺

暗中陰騭分明有 遠在兒孫近在身 守口莫談人過短 自短何曾告與人

生事事生君莫怨 害人人害汝休瞋 欺心折盡平心福 行短天教一世貧

高山平地有黃金 只恐爲人不用心 天下羣洲行過了 勤苦節用莫求人

空手求人像問壁 求人像吞三寸劍 靠人如上九重天 百般口語不如錢

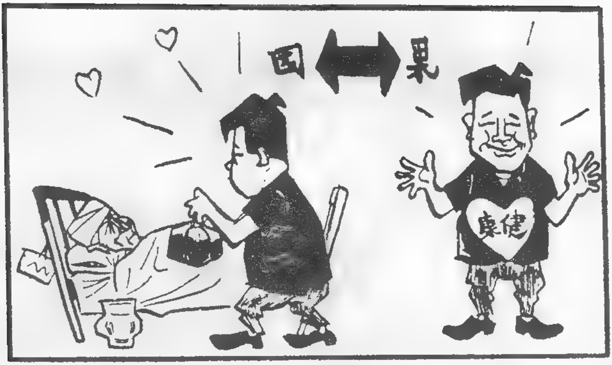
貧人莫去求富親 富親見我是別人 不信但見筵中席 杯杯盞盞敬有錢

父母不好誰是親 不孝父母敬何人 一年一月一日新 三年勝敗幾多人

若問此文何人撰 自心隱者勸世人

# 佛說三世因果經

願以獻功德
迴向於一切
我等與眾生
皆共成佛道




⑲今生無病為何因？前世施藥救病人。




⑳伶仃孤苦為何因？前世惡心侵算人。

歡迎翻印

功德無量

三寶門中福好修，一文喜捨萬文收。

與君寄在堅牢庫，世世生生福不休。

若問前生事，今生受者是：若問後世事，

今生做者是。



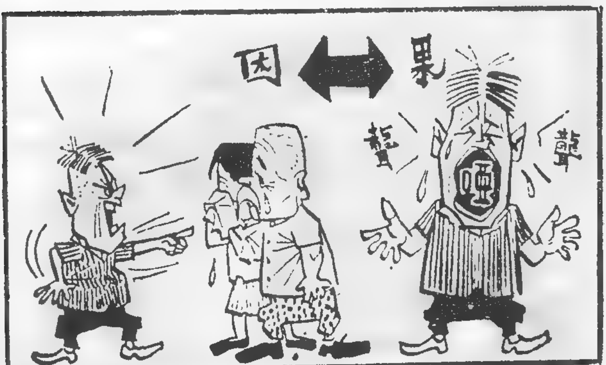

⑱今生牛馬為何因？前世欠債不還人。

若問前世因果經，今生受者是其眞，
若問後世因果經，今生作者即其因。
若是因果無感應，目蓮救母是何因？
若人深信因果經，同生西方極樂國。
三世因果說不盡，龍天不虧善心人。




⑰今生駝背為何因？前世笑了拜佛人。

有人書寫因果經，世代勤學家道興；
有人頂帶因果經，凶災橫禍不臨身；
有人講說因果經，生生世世得聰明；
有人高唱因果經，來生多人愛恭敬。
有人印送因果經，來世便得帝王身；




⑯今生聾啞為何因？前世惡口罵雙親。

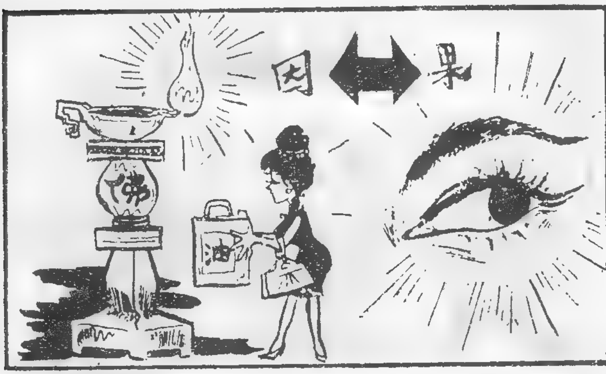
莫道因果無人見，遠在兒孫近在身。

不信吃齋多修捨，但看眼前受福人。

前世修來今世受，今生修積後世人。

若人毀謗因果經，後世墮落無人身；

有人受持因果經，諸佛菩薩作證明；




⑮今生眼明為何因？前世捨油點佛燈。

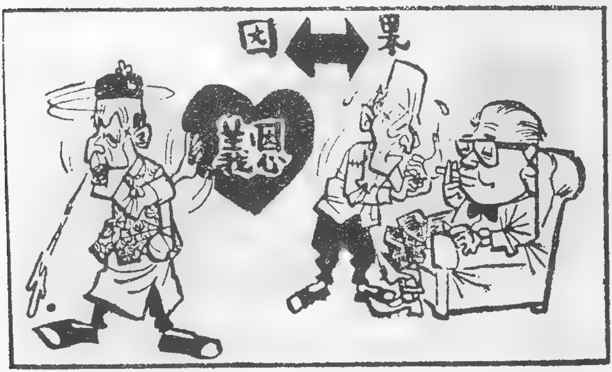
今生吊死爲何因？前世携索去山林。

鰥寡孤獨爲何因？前世居心嫉妒人。

雷打火燒爲何因？大秤小斗不公平。

虎咬蛇傷爲何因？前世寃家對頭人。

萬般自作還自受，地獄受苦怨何人？




⑭今生奴婢爲何因？前世忘恩負義人。

今生矮小爲何因？　前世地下看經文。

今生吐血爲何因？　前世食肉去念經。

今生耳聾爲何因？　前世誦經不悉聽。

今生瘡癩爲何因？　前世魚肉佛台熏。

今生臭氣爲何因？　前世和香賣不眞。




⑬今生守寡為何因？前世輕賤丈夫身。

今生無病爲何因？前世施藥救病人。

今生坐牢爲何因？前世作惡不讓人。

今生餓死爲何因？前世常閉鼠蛇洞。

毒藥死者爲何因？前世攔河毒魚人。

伶仃孤苦爲何因？前世惡心侵算人。




⑫今生長命爲何因？前世買物多放生。

今生曲手爲何因？前世都是造業人。

今生曲脚爲何因？前世攔路打刼人。

今生牛馬爲何因？前世欠債不還人。

今生豬狗爲何因？前世皆因騙害人。

今生多病爲何因？前世酒肉供佛人。




⑪多子多孫為何因？前世開籠放鳥人。

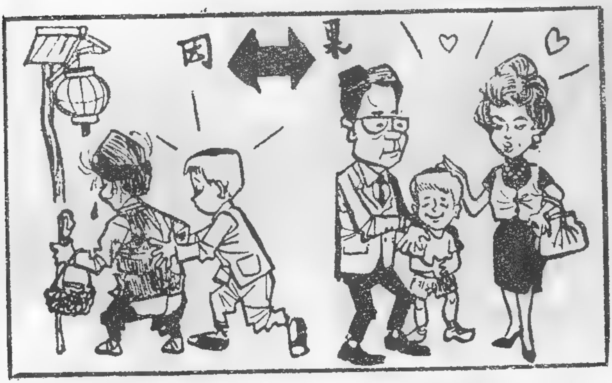
今生眼明爲何因？前世施油點佛燈。

今生瞎眼爲何因？前世指路不分明。

今生缺口爲何因？前世吹滅佛前燈。

今生聾啞爲何因？前世惡口罵雙親。

今生駝背爲何因？前世笑了拜佛人。




⑩父母雙全為何因？前世敬重孤獨人。

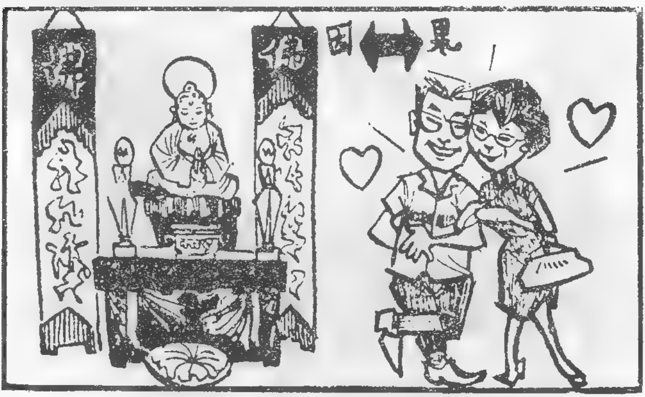
今生長命爲何因？前世買物多放生。

今生短命爲何因？前世宰殺生衆身。

今生無妻爲何因？前世偷姦謀人妻。

今生守寡爲何因？前世輕賤丈夫身。

今生奴婢爲何因？前世忘恩負義人。




⑨夫妻長守為何因？前世幢旛供佛前。

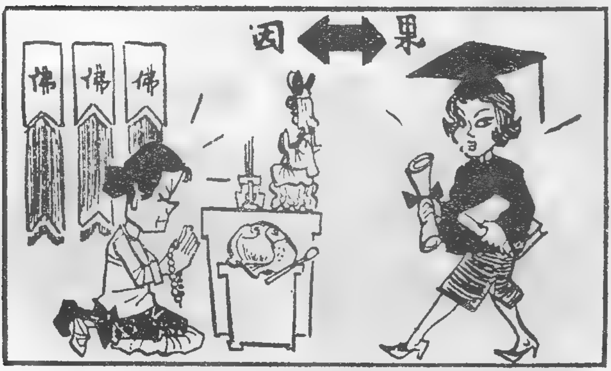
父母雙全爲何因？前世敬重孤獨人。

無父無母爲何因？前世都是打鳥人。

多子多孫爲何因？前世開籠放鳥人。

養子不成爲何因？前世皆因溺女身。

今生無子爲何因？前世採折百花人。




⑧聰明智慧為何因？前世吃齋唸佛人。

福祿具足爲何因？前世造庵建凉亭。

相貌端嚴爲何因？前世鮮花供佛前。

聰明智慧爲何因？前世吃齋念佛人。

嬌妻妾美爲何因？前世佛門多結緣。

夫妻長守爲何因？前世幢旛供佛前。




⑦相貌端嚴為何因？前世鮮花供佛前。

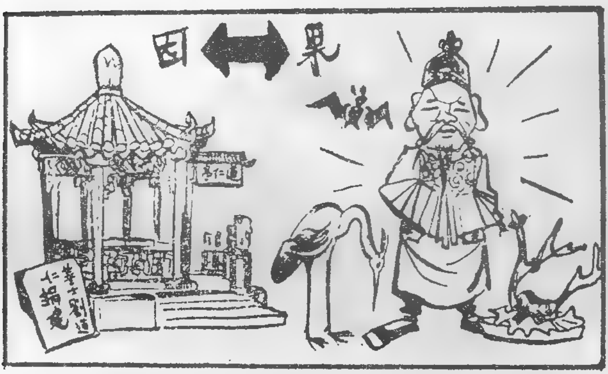
騎馬坐轎爲何因？前世修橋補路人。

穿綢穿緞爲何因？前世施衣濟僧人。

有食有穿爲何因？前世茶飯施貧人。

無食無穿爲何因？前世未捨半分文。

高樓大厦爲何因？前世施米上庵門。




⑥福祿具足為何因？前世造庵建涼亭。

三世因果非小可，佛言眞語莫非輕。
今生做官爲何因？前世黃金粧佛身。
前世修來今世受，紫袍金帶佛前求。
黃金粧佛粧自己，云蓋如來蓋自身。
莫說做官皆容易，前世不修何處來？



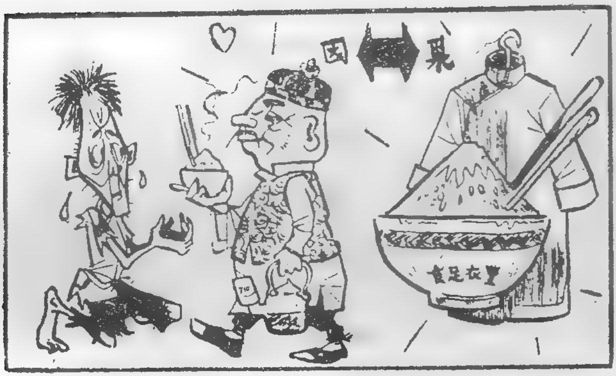

⑤高樓大厦爲何因？前世施米上庵門。

戒殺放生，四要吃齋布施，能種後世福田。

佛說因果偈云：

富貴皆由命，前世各修因，有人受持者，世世福祿深。

善男信女聽言因，聽念三世因果經，



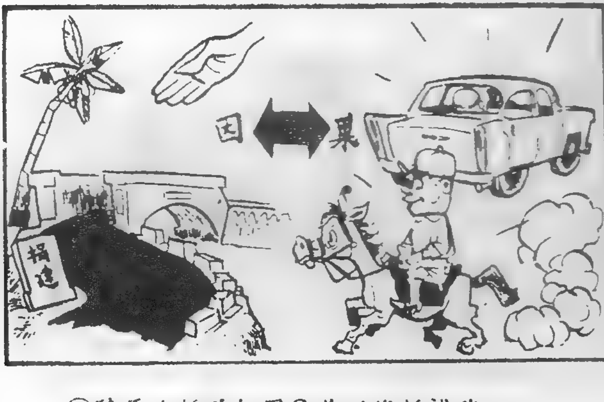

④有食有穿為何因？前世茶飯施貧人。

佛告阿難，與諸大弟子言，汝等諦聽。善哉！善哉！吾當爲汝等分明說之。是故世間，一切男女，貧賤富貴，受苦無窮，享福不盡，皆是前生因果之報。以何所作故？先須孝敬父母，次要敬信三寶，三要




③穿綢穿緞為何因？前世施衣濟僧人。

南閻浮提，一切衆生，末法時至，多生不善。不敬三寶，不重父母。無有三綱，五倫雜亂。貧窮下賤，六根不足。終日殺生害命，富貴貧窮，亦不平等。以何果報？望　世尊慈悲，願爲弟子一一解說！



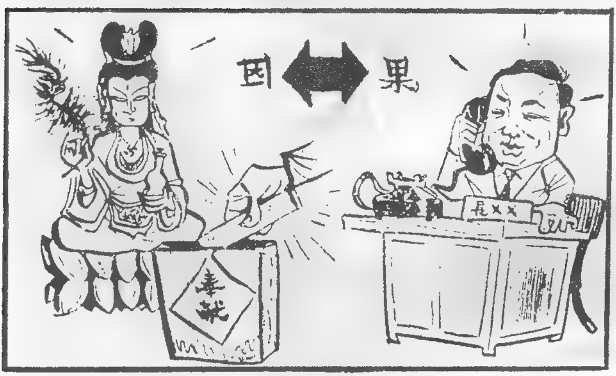

②騎馬坐轎為何因？前世修橋補路人。

# 佛說三世因果經

爾時，阿難陀尊者，在靈山會上，一千二百五十人俱。

阿難頂禮合掌，遶佛三匝，胡跪問訊。

談問本師釋迦牟尼佛：




①今生做官為何因？前世黃金粧佛身

南無本師釋迦牟尼佛



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